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REPORT OF THE BUILDING COMMITTEE

OF THE

FIRST PARISH IN CAMBRIDGE,

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Feb. 4, 1902.

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THE COMMITTEE OF NINE

CONSISTING OF

WILLIAM READ,

JAMES BARR AMES,	ARTHUR E. JONES,
EDGAR H. NICHOLS,	JOSEPH G. THORP,
EDMUND A. WHITMAN,	WILLIAM W. VAUGHAN,
CHARLES C. READ,	HOLLIS R. BAILEY,

appointed at the meeting of the Parish held April 15, 1901, to take charge of the erection of the new Vestry and the repairs and improvement of the Meeting-house, submits the following report: —

MEETING-HOUSE.

Your Committee has endeavored, in repairing the church, to follow in every detail possible the *original* lines and finish of the old building, and this we have been enabled to do from finding the *old plans* made when the church was built in 1833, and we believe that we have reproduced the outward finish of the old meeting-house *exactly* as it *originally* was, even to the four pinnacles which are on the rear end of the roof.

Mr. William P. Richards, architect, has had the supervision and direction of the work.

The original specifications, at the time when the old church was built, called for a building covered with clapboards; but afterwards it was decided to *sheathe* the walls and the tower, and in addition to the sheathing the whole was sanded, — the old records stating that in the opinion of competent judges, as well as of the committee, a house if twice sanded would not require painting for forty or fifty years!

Your Committee has reproduced such finish in all respects, except the sanding, and after replacing with new all the old boarding and framework that were found to be defective, the whole building has been covered with best pine sheathing, properly put on; also a new retaining stone wall has been built under the church on the Church Street side. The only innovation outwardly is a new flight of stone steps at the front entrance, of a more liberal and inviting style than the old ones, which were so narrow and steep that it was difficult for one to enter the church, and *dangerous for one coming out!* It is hoped that these new steps will be appreciated. The old vane, and also the letters on the large clock, have been regilded, and the whole church painted with three coats of paint of the exact color of the original building.

In repairing the meeting-house, your Committee was surprised at the good condition in which it was found to be. Some of us had supposed that it was not fit to repair, but a thorough examination and overhauling proved the fact to be quite the reverse. Mr. F. B. Furbish, of this city, who has been the contractor for the repairs, a builder so well known to all of us, and who has done his work in a most satisfactory manner, in answer to an inquiry, writes: "In reply to your request to give you a memorandum of what defective parts of the old church were found in making repairs, I would say that we found it in much better condition than expected. The framework, which is of pine, was in *exceptionally* good condition, except in the following parts, which were found decayed, and which have been replaced with new timber. (Here is given a detailed list of the various pieces of new wood which have been put in, — parts of sills, girts, studding, etc., — comparatively few in number, and much less than was expected.) Most of the old boarding was found to be in good condition, and what was defective has been replaced with new. The spire was in *good* condition, all the main posts being sound. The whole building has been covered with new sheathing, spire and all. A new stone wall has been built

on the southerly side, and the whole building is, in my opinion, good for *fifty* years with ordinary care paid to it."

The interior has been thoroughly gone over, the side walls and the walls under the galleries replastered, the old ceiling entirely taken down and replaced with a new one, and the walls and ceiling redecorated by Messrs. Mortensen and Holdensen, acting with the advice of Mrs. Henry Whitman. A new floor of Southern pine has been put down in the vestibule, and the walls and ceiling of the vestibule have been decorated. The old blinds to the windows, which were one of the principal features of the old church, have been repaired and preserved as they were originally. Electric lights have been introduced throughout, and new carpets placed on the floor and new cushions in the pews; also new damask screens behind the rear pews and in front of the choir. The old clock in front of the choir has had its face re-enamelled and the pipes of the organ have been redecorated. An approved system of heating and ventilation, similar to that used in Appleton Chapel, has been introduced, which will be adequate for both parish house and church. All the apparatus, such as boilers, fans, motors, indirect radiators, etc., are located in the basement of the parish house, so that in the future, when the new church is built, the present apparatus can be used.

Perhaps a few statistics about the old church may not be out of place in this report, and be interesting to our parish.

The church was built in the year 1833, and was dedicated on December 12 of that year. The Building Committee consisted of the following members of the parish: Asahel Stearns, Abraham Hilliard, Andrews Norton, James Hayward, Abel Whitney, Joseph Holmes, William Wells, Oliver Hastings, and Sylvanus Plympton, all well-known men of their day. This committee acted in concert with a committee of the Corporation of Harvard College, consisting of President Quincy, Thomas Wren Ward, Treasurer, and Eben Francis. Isaiah Rogers was the architect,

a man eminent in his profession at the time. Among other buildings designed by him were the old Tremont House and the Merchants' Exchange in Boston, and the Astor House and the St. Nicholas Hotel in New York. He was afterwards appointed United States Architect. The builders were Messrs. Chamberlain and Hastings, both members of the parish. The church was originally planned without a steeple, but as many of the parishioners were not satisfied with this design, after the frame of the building had been erected, the present steeple was built and hoisted up from the inside! Also, it was at first decided not to have a vane, and the *architect* was not in favor of having one; but as many members of the parish wanted a vane, the present one was procured at a cost of seventy (70) dollars. This old vane measures six feet and seven and one-half inches in length.

The church was at first heated by two sheet-iron stoves, the committee appointed by the parish for making provision for warming the house having reported their convictions "that such stoves are the safest and best arrangements for warming large buildings that have been introduced." Nothing is found in the old records about ventilating! And it is feared that the old committee would not have approved the bill incurred by the present committee for heating and ventilating! A new bell, weighing 2,888 pounds, was contracted for and hung in the belfry. Also a large and valuable clock, made by Simon Willard, was bought and placed in front of the tower, which is still doing duty in its old place.

The old committee of 1833 stated in their report to the parish at that time that they would not do justice to their own feelings if they "omitted to notice with the highest respect the liberality of the ladies of the parish, who, with their characteristic promptness to aid in every good improvement, have provided elegant carpets for covering the aisles of the church." The present committee regret that, owing to want of time, they were obliged to contract for new carpets and cushions without consulting

the ladies; but they feel sure that the ladies of the parish will take steps, in the immediate future, to reimburse the parish for this expense.

Your Committee cannot help feeling that the work done, in restoring and giving a new lease of life to this old meeting-house, which for so many years has been a *landmark* in Cambridge, will be a gratification, not only to the members of this parish, but to every one of our citizens.

The cost of the work of repairing the meeting-house is as follows: —

F. B. Furbish bill, original contract	$7,769 00	
F. B. Furbish bill, extras as agreed on	1,007 39	
		$8,776 39
Clark & Mills, wiring and lighting contract		360 00
Mortensen & Holdensen, decorating	$731 04	
Mortensen & Holdensen, additional bill for extras	134 17	
		865 21
Thos. J. Daly, gas pipes		55 46
H. P. Cummings, wall under tower		53 70
Letters under vane		12 85
Mrs. Whitman, for advice		25 00
Worcester Bros. bill, carpets and cushions, curtains, mats, etc.		1,258 37
Re-enamelling face of clock		5 00
Watchman during summer months, at different times		132 00
Grading and sodding in front of church		65 00
Irving & Casson's bill, hymn board		26 00
Wm. P. Richards, bill as architect		900 00
Bradley and Chatman, repairing ceiling in cellar		30 00
F. B. Furbish, lathing basement, removing furnaces, etc.,		122 00
F. B. Furbish, cutting grille and ventilating holes in floor,		325 00
Densmore & LeClear, commission		100 00
Proportion of cost of heating and ventilating plant, which should be charged to the meeting-house, as per Densmore & LeClear's estimate		1,400 00
Total		$14,511 98

Total Expenditures		$14,511 98
Towards the above there has been received from contributions	$4,265 50	
And in addition there has been pledged to be paid this year	995 00	
Making in all		$5,260 50
Leaving amount to be provided for		$9,251 48

Of this amount to be provided for, $8,000 has been borrowed by the treasurer of the parish, in accordance with the vote of the parish at its last meeting.

PARISH HOUSE.

The *new parish house* has been designed by Mr. William P. Richards. Your Committee, however, first carefully studied the wants of the society, and particularly of the Sunday School, and also ascertained the wishes of our pastor, Dr. Crothers, as to the requisite acommodations of the interior; bearing in mind the vote of the parish, that the style of architecture of the new vestry should not determine or influence in any way the style ultimately to be chosen for the new meeting-house. The main entrance is from Church Street, by a generous flight of granite steps and vestibule running in from Church Street at the westerly end of the lot. The lower floor has pastor's room with closet and open fire-place, also ladies' parlor, 22 by 23 feet, with open fire-place, bay window and window seats, also drawers, shelves, cupboards, etc., as needed by the Ladies' Sewing Society. Adjoining is the Sunday-School room, 29 by 45 feet. This room has open construction roof with ceiling of wood, the height from floor to ceiling being 30 feet, and also has wainscotted walls $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet high around the entire room, and is connected by wide doors with the ladies' parlor. Three class-rooms are connected with the Sunday-School room (two on one side and one on the other, of size 14 by $14\frac{1}{8}$ feet), by doors nearly the full width of each room. A kitchen is on the same floor, with separate outside entrance as mentioned before. The second floor

has library, kindergarten room, three class-rooms, coat rooms, committee rooms, toilet rooms, closets, etc. Sliding doors give access to a balcony overlooking the Sunday-School room. The entire finish of the parish house is of slashed oak, except in the kitchen and serving room, and for the ceiling of the Sunday-School room, North Carolina pine being used in the first two and cypress for the last.

The exterior finish of the building is Weymouth seam-face granite, backed by hollow walls of brick on three sides, with water-struck brick on western side, also backed by a hollow wall of brick. The trimmings for windows and doors, and all moulded stone, are of Indiana limestone. The bay roofs are covered with copper, and main roof with slate.

Specifications for the parish house were given to three firms of prominent contractors — Messrs. H. P. Cummings & Co., Messrs. L. D. Willcutt & Son, and Messrs. M. S. & S. N. Miller. Each firm was requested to bring in bids. Messrs. Cummings & Co.'s bid was $28,885, Messrs. Willcutt & Son's bid was $32,696, and Messrs. Millers' bid was $29,654, and the contract was given to Messrs. Cummings & Co., they being the lowest bidders.

The total cost of the parish house cannot be given at present, nor until the work is completed, but it will be something like the following: —

Messrs. Cummings & Co.'s bill	$28,885 00
Messrs. Cummings & Co.'s bill for extras, as agreed .	673 00
Additional for heating and ventilating plant, plumbing, gas and electric fixtures, wiring, architect's commission, steam piping, etc.	10,272 05
Total	$39,830 05

All of which is respectfully submitted.

For the Committee,

WILLIAM READ, *Chairman.*

CAMBRIDGE, Feb. 10, 1902.

SUPPLEMENTARY AND FINAL REPORT.

This report is made as some few items of cost for repairs on the meeting-house, as stated in the first report of the Building Committee, have been found to be incorrect, and as such report did not give the total cost of the new parish house.

MEETING-HOUSE.

The total cost of repairing the meeting-house, with the proportionate cost of heating and ventilating plant, instead of $14,511.98, as previously given, is . . .		$14,734 48
The amount received from contributions to date —		
May 18, 1902, is	$5,165 60	
Pledged	725 00	
		5,890 60
Leaving amount to be provided for		$8,843 88

PARISH HOUSE.

The total cost of the parish house is as follows: —

Messrs. Cummings & Co.'s contract		$28,885 00
Messrs. Cummings & Co., extras, as agreed		777 65
Mason, surveyor's bill		10 00
Architect's bill, preliminary sketches		50 00
Baumeister, plumbing contract		681 00
Extra on sink	$6 00	
Extra, hot-water tank, etc. .	81 00	
Extra, setting up range, etc. .	4 67	
		91 67
Clark & Mills, contract No. 1	$417 00	
Clark & Mills, motor contract No. 2 . .	698 50	
Clark & Mills, extras	24 00	
		1,139 50
Massachusetts Fan Co. contract		625 00
Weld Manufacturing Co., temperature contract . . .		390 00
Carried forward		$32,649 82

Brought forward		$32,649 82
Bradlee & Chatman, contract heating and ventilating .		4,090 00
Extras	$35 00	
Extras	8 00	
Extras	9 00	
		52 00
Hollings' bill, gas and electric light fixtures		387 65
Densmore & LeClear, architects of ventilating and heating plant		585 55
W. P. Richards, architect bill		1,600 00
Cost of fireman, temporarily	$10 00	
Cost of fireman	60 50	
		70 50
Cost of coal, heating house for work		299 23
Iron fence, rear of building, also gate on Church Street,		50 00
Worcester Bros., bill for shades		25 50
		$39,810 25

In dealing with the question of expense, and desiring, in the construction of the parish house, to avoid committing the parish finally as to material and style of architecture, the Committee considered with much care, from estimates submitted by competent builders, the cost of building a brick structure to be veneered with stone hereafter, and with openings harmonious with those of the present church, as compared with the cost of building according to the plans decided on. The Committee was unanimous in its conclusion that, in relation to the present church, as well as to changes which might be desired to make the parish house harmonize with any church to be built hereafter, the plans decided on would be less costly, and would give us, meanwhile, a more satisfactory building, and one which could be as easily changed in material and architectural style as the brick structure.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

For the Committee,

WILLIAM READ, *Chairman.*

CAMBRIDGE, May 19, 1902.